

REMARKS

Filed concurrently herewith is an **Information Disclosure Statement** enclosing the counterpart European Search Report, copies of the two cited non-U.S. patent documents, and a Form PTO/SB/08 A & B listing the three cited references. It is requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of this Information Disclosure Statement, consider the three cited references, and return to the undersigned attorney an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B.

In response to the Office Action at page 2, paragraph 2, Applicant encloses a replacement formal drawing sheet in which the boxes of the single drawing figure have been labeled with legends corresponding to those found in the written description.

Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the disclosure in view of the above corrective amendments to the specification at page 1, line 14, and page 5, line 23.

Applicant cancels claim 10 without prejudice, thereby rendering moot its rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

However, on page 5, paragraph 9, the Examiner indicates that claims 3 (3/2/1), 5 (5/2/1), 7 (7/1), 8 (8/3) and 9 (9/3) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

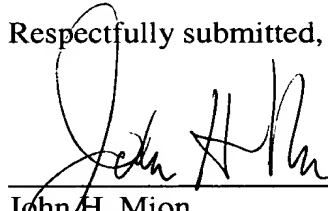
These claims have been so rewritten, whereby Applicant respectfully submits that they now are **allowable**. Furthermore, claims 4 and 6 have been amended to make them dependent on allowable claims. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice.

New claim 11 is identical to claim 9, but dependent on the allowable claim 7.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all requirements, objections and rejections, and to find the application now to be in condition for allowance with all of claims 3-9 and 11; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/915,284

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant encloses a replacement formal drawing sheet in which the boxes of the single drawing figure have been labeled with legends corresponding to those found in the written description.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet - 1/1